

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
~~hardware resources used for image formation;~~
~~applications for performing processes on image formation; and~~
~~a platform that exists between the applications and the hardware resources, the~~
~~platform including an Operating System (OS) and a least one control service to control an~~
~~execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call~~
~~from at least one of the applications, wherein interprocess communication is performed~~
~~between the control service and at least one of the applications, and the hardware resources;~~
~~the applications, and the platform are included in a cabinet of the image forming apparatus,~~
~~the image forming apparatus further comprising, as one of the applications:~~
~~an information providing part configured to provide, to a client terminal, screen data~~
~~used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses from among a plurality of image~~
~~forming apparatuses connected to a network on the client terminal, and configured to store, in~~
~~a storage unit, information including addresses of one or more of the image forming~~
~~apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the~~
~~selected one or more image forming apparatuses; and~~
~~a print request part configured to distribute print data and a print request to one or~~
~~more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, wherein~~
~~when a print request that has been received includes a name of print data and a~~
~~function of an image forming apparatus from the client terminal, the print request part~~
~~extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses~~
~~having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the~~
~~selected one or more information apparatuses, and the print request part distributes the print~~

~~data and a print request to the one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses~~

a storage part configured to store information of functions of a plurality of image forming apparatuses, including the image forming apparatus and other image forming apparatuses connected to the image forming apparatus via a network, and information of destination addresses of the image forming apparatuses;

a printing part configured to perform print processing when receiving a print request and print data from a client terminal;

a determination part configured to determine whether any of the plurality of image forming apparatuses has a function included in the print request based on the information of functions stored in the storage part; and

a print request part configured to request the printing part of the image forming apparatus to print the print data when the image forming apparatus has the function included in the print request based on the determination by the determination part, and to request one or more of the other image forming apparatuses to print the print data when the one or more of the other image forming apparatuses have the function included in the print request based on the determination by the determination part.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an information providing part configured to provide, to the client terminal, screen data used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses from among the plurality of image forming apparatuses, wherein the information providing part sends the screen data for inputting a print instruction to the client terminal; and

the print request part distributes the print data and the print request when receiving the print instruction from the client terminal.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the ~~information providing part~~ sends screen data is used for uploading the print data to the client terminal; and

the image forming apparatus receives the print data when the print data is uploaded from the client terminal.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2 [[1]], wherein the screen data includes data for displaying a plurality of image forming apparatuses and corresponding places for each of the image forming apparatuses.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2 [[1]], wherein the screen data includes data for displaying a plurality of image forming apparatuses and corresponding functions for each of the image forming apparatuses.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the storage unit.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim [[9]] 1, wherein the print request part requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the print request part comprises an address obtaining part for obtaining addresses of the ~~one or more other~~ image forming apparatuses connected to a network; and

wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by using the addresses obtained by the address obtaining part.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus is configured to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from [[the]] at least one control service, and the image forming apparatus includes the ~~information providing part~~ and the print request part as an application.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A print process method used in an image forming apparatus, the print process method comprising:

~~providing screen data used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses from among a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network on the client terminal, and storing information including addresses of one or more of the plurality of image~~

~~forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses;~~

~~distributing print data and a print request, by the image forming apparatus, to one or more image forming apparatuses, wherein when a print request is received that includes a name of print data and a function of an image forming apparatus from the client terminal, extracting one or more addresses of one or more image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses, and distributing the print data and a print request to the one or more image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses; and~~

~~performing interprocess communication between at least one control service and at least one application of at least one of the image forming apparatus which comprises:~~

~~hardware resources used for image formation;~~
~~applications for performing processes on image formation; and~~
~~a platform that exists between the applications and the hardware resources, the platform including an Operating System (OS) and a least one control service to control an execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call from at least one of the applications, and the hardware resources, the applications, and the platform being included in a cabinet of the image forming apparatus~~

storing, at a storage part of the image forming apparatus, information of functions of a plurality of image forming apparatuses, including the image forming apparatus and other image forming apparatuses connected to the image forming apparatus via a network, and information of destination addresses of the image forming apparatuses;

performing, at a printing part of the image forming apparatus, print processing when receiving a print request and print data from a client terminal;

determining whether any of the plurality of image forming apparatuses has a function included in the print request based on the information of functions stored in the storage part; and

requesting the printing part of the image forming apparatus to print the print data when the image forming apparatus has the function included in the print request based on the determining step, and requesting one or more of the other image forming apparatuses to print the print data when the one or more of the other image forming apparatuses have the function included in the print request based on the determining step.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:

providing, to the client terminal, screen data used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses from among the plurality of image forming apparatuses,
wherein the image forming apparatus sends the screen data for inputting a print instruction to the client terminal, and distributes the print data and the print request in response to the print instruction from the client terminal.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The print process method as claimed in claim [[14]] 15, wherein the image forming apparatus sends the screen data used for uploading the print data to the client terminal, and receives the print data when the print data is uploaded from the client terminal.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The print process method as claimed in claim [[14]]
15, wherein the screen data includes data for displaying the plurality of image forming
apparatuses and locations thereof.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The print process method as claimed in claim [[14]]
15, wherein the screen data includes data for displaying the plurality of image forming
apparatuses and functions thereof.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The print process method as claimed in claim 14,
~~wherein the image forming apparatus stores in a memory information including addresses of~~
~~the selected one or more image forming apparatuses, and~~

wherein the image forming apparatus distributes the print data and the print request by
referring to the stored information of destination addresses ~~information stored in the memory~~.

Claim 21 (Original): The print process method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the
print instruction includes an instruction for designating functions to be used for printing the
print data, and

the image forming apparatus selects one or more image forming apparatuses that
includes the designated functions from among the selected one or more image forming
apparatuses, and distributes the print data and the print request to the one or more image
forming apparatuses that includes the designated functions.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The print process method as claimed in claim [[22]]
14, wherein the image forming apparatus requests the printing part of the image forming
apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The print process method as claimed in claim 14,
wherein the image forming apparatus is configured to be able to install a plurality of
applications separately from the at least one control service, and the application performs the
providing, and the distributing.

Claims 27-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium storing computer code
~~to be that when~~ executed on an image forming apparatus ~~causes the image forming apparatus~~
~~to perform a method, the image forming apparatus comprising:~~
~~hardware resources used for image formation;~~
~~applications for performing processes on image formation; and~~
~~a platform that exists between the applications and the hardware resources, the~~
~~platform including an Operating System (OS) and a least one control service to control an~~
~~execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call~~
~~from at least one of the applications, wherein interprocess communication is performed~~

~~between the control service and at least one of the applications, and the hardware resources, the applications, and the platform are included in a cabinet of the image forming apparatus~~

~~the computer readable medium comprising, as one of the applications:~~

~~an information providing program code unit configured to provide, to a client terminal, screen data used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses from among a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network on the client terminal, and configured to store, in a storage unit, information including addresses of one or more of the image forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses; and~~

~~a print request program code unit configured to distribute print data and a print request to one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, wherein, when a print request that has been received includes a name of print data and a function of an image forming apparatus from the client terminal, the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses, and the print request part distributes the print data and a print request to the one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses~~

storing, at a storage part of the image forming apparatus, information of functions of a plurality of image forming apparatuses, including the image forming apparatus and other image forming apparatuses connected to the image forming apparatus via a network, and information of destination addresses of the image forming apparatuses;

performing, at a printing part of the image forming apparatus, print processing when receiving a print request and print data from a client terminal;

determining whether any of the plurality of image forming apparatuses has a function included in the print request based on the information of functions stored in the storage part; and

requesting the printing part of the image forming apparatus to print the print data when the image forming apparatus has the function included in the print request based on the determining step, and requesting one or more of the other image forming apparatuses to print the print data when the one or more of the other image forming apparatuses have the function included in the print request based on the determining step.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein

when an address of the image forming apparatus is stored in the storage unit due to selection of the image forming apparatus at the client terminal and when the image forming apparatus includes the function included in the print request, the print request part requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus to print the print data by specifying a loop back address for returning the print data back within the image forming apparatus.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, wherein further comprising:

distributing the print request includes requesting [[a]] the printing part of the image forming apparatus to print the print data by specifying a loop back address for returning the print data back within the image forming apparatus when an address of the image forming apparatus is stored in the storage unit due to selection of the image forming apparatus at the client terminal and when the image forming apparatus includes the function included in the print request.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium according to claim 29, wherein, further comprising:

requesting [[a]] the printing part of the image forming apparatus to print the print data by specifying a loop back address for returning the print data back within the image forming apparatus when an address of the image forming apparatus is stored in the storage unit due to selection of the image forming apparatus at the client terminal and when the image forming apparatus includes the function included in the print request

~~when an address of the image forming apparatus is stored in the storage unit due to selection of the image forming apparatus at the client terminal and when the image forming apparatus includes the function included in the print request, the print request part requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus to print the print data by specifying a loop back address for returning the print data back within the image forming apparatus.~~

Claim 33 (New): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein when an error is output when the print request part either requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus to print the print data, or requests one or more of the other image forming apparatuses to print the print data, another image forming apparatus of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected and the print request part requests the another image forming apparatus to print the print data.

Claim 34 (New): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an address obtaining part for obtaining addresses of the other image forming apparatuses automatically and periodically to generate printer list data to be stored in the

storage unit, the printer list data associating names of the other image forming apparatuses with the respective obtained addresses of the other image forming apparatuses.